

Thanksgiving Lesson

Scripture References:

Psalm 136:1

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.

Psalm 69:30

I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Definitions of words

Praise is saying things to God that are true about God

Endure means to last, or to bear with (as in God's love endures forever)

Major Points

- We are to give thanks to God
- God is good
- God's love endures forever
- Definition of praise
- Definition of the word endure

Lesson

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever." These are great words! In fact, they are the words of a song that we can hear on the radio today! But the amazing thing is that these words have been used in songs to praise God for thousands of years.

About 3,000 years ago a man named David (King David of Israel) wrote these words down in order to praise God with them. David also wrote these words: *"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving."* (Psalm 69:30)

Praising God means saying things to God that are true about Him. When we say things like: "God is good!" that is praising God, because God is good!

We might say things like "God is loving" or "God is always there" and that is praising God, because those things are true about God. God is loving and God is always there.

What are some other things we could say to praise God? What kinds of things can we that are true about God? (*Listen to answers from students; give feedback.*)

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.” His love endures forever. That’s a new word, endure. Endure means that something lasts, or bears with other things. It means that it doesn’t go away, no matter what. So, God’s love lasts forever; it will bear with all other things forever; it will be there forever.

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.” The Bible says that we are to give thanks to God. We are to give thanks to God because He is good. And God is good, isn’t He? Let’s talk about one of the ways that we know God is good.

We know God is good because He gives us good things.

(James 1:17) *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father...*

Let’s name some of the good things God gives us or has given us.

(Listen to answers; give feedback.)

Examples of answers from younger children:

Parents, food, homes, grandparents, pets, sunshine, the stars, animals, my goldfish, etc.

Examples of answers from older children:

Love, integrity, justice, kindness, peace, joy, salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

What holiday is coming up soon? *(THANKSGIVING)*

When we celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving, we are setting aside a day to thank God for all the good things He has given to us. We can thank Him for things as simple as our pet goldfish or as big and wonderful as our salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

We can thank Him for anything good that we have received, because the Bible tells us that He has given us every good and perfect gift.

King David wrote: *“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.”*

One of the ways we can give thanks to God is to pray. Let’s pray and thank God for all the good things He has given us!

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for all of the good and perfect gifts you have given us! We praise you for how good and loving you are!! Help us to make every day a day of thanksgiving!! AMEN

King David also wrote: *“I will praise God’s name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.”*

Let’s do that! Let’s sing a song of praise to God and thank Him for all He has done for us!

Songs

Praise Him, Praise Him, All ye Little Children...

This is the Day that the Lord hath Made

Praise Him! Praise Him!
All ye Little Children
(Public Domain)

Praise Him, Praise Him!
All ye little children,
God is love, God is love.
Praise Him, Praise Him!
All ye little children,
God is love, God is love!

Love Him, love Him,
All ye little children,
God is love, God is love.
Love Him, love Him,
All ye little children,
God is love, God is love!

Serve Him, serve Him,
All ye little children,
God is love, God is love.
Serve Him, serve Him,
All ye little children,
God is love, God is love!

For Free Lyrics and Midi version go to:

http://biblestudycharts.com/CH_Praise_Him_Praise_Him.html

This is the Day
(Public Domain)

This is the day, this is the day
That the LORD hath made, that the LORD hath made
I will rejoice, I will rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it

This is the day that the LORD hath made
I will be rejoice and be glad in it

This is the day, this is the day
That the LORD hath made!!

For Free Lyrics and Midi version go to:

http://biblestudycharts.com/CH_This_Is_The_Day.html

Activities: (Choose from the following according to age group and interest)
Suggested Song for Musical Activities: "Forever" by Chris Tomlin (Use with permission only.)

Sing Along

You may wish to play the song and allow the children to sing along with the parts they know or with the parts which repeat such as "His love endures forever".

Background Music

You may decide to play this song softly as background music while the children do a craft project or play quietly.

Freeze Dancing

Play the song and allow the children to dance with the music. Turn the music off abruptly and have them freeze in place. Pick one child from the group to come up and turn the music on and off again. Repeat until others have had a turn.

Letter Scramble

Write the word THANKSGIVING on the board. Have the children write as many words as they can think of using just the letters in the word "Thanksgiving". For example: thank, thanks, thing, ant, sank, van, tan tins, I, in, sin, sink, etc. After a certain amount of time, have the children share their lists if they would like to do so. Who has the most words? Who has the longest word? Who has the shortest word? Does anyone have a word that no one else thought of?

Bible Verse Work

Have the children write out one or all of the Bible Verses for the day. Look up the verses in the Bible. Read them out loud. What verses precede and follow these verses in the Bible? Memorize Psalm 136:1 and say it while hopping up and down, or while standing on one foot.

Today's Bible Verse

Psalm 136:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.

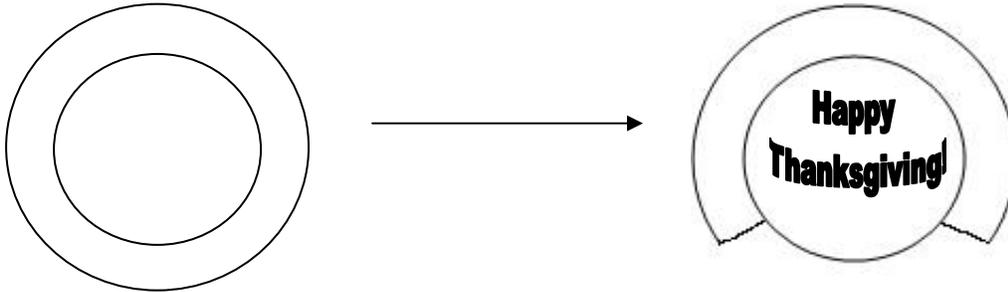
Thanksgiving Crafts:

Turkey Handprints: A "classic" and *still* a must-do Thanksgiving activity with young ones. Give each child a piece of either plain paper or construction paper (8 ½ x 11 inches or larger). Use crayons or washable markers to trace around the child's outstretched hand on to the paper. Then lift the hand. Connect the lines at the wrist area and you have the "body" for your turkey. Draw legs and turkey feet under the wrist. Draw an eye and a beak on the thumb to denote the head. Color the four fingers brightly to make the turkey "feathers". Write "Happy Thanksgiving" or "Give thanks to the LORD..." at the top of the page. Be sure to write down the child's name and the date as these will become keepsakes as soon as Grandma sees them.

NOTE: Older children may wish to draw in a landscape or extra things like a pilgrim's hat on the turkey head.

Turkey Wall Hanging:

Provide each child with one paper plate (the cheap paper kinds are best) and access to lots of autumn color crayons or markers. Write “Happy Thanksgiving” or “Thank you, God” in the center of each plate with indelible marker or dark crayons. Allow each child to decorate a plate. For those who want their plate to resemble a turkey: Cut off the frilled edge along the bottom third of the plate. Then decorate the plate as if it represents the turkey’s feathers. To hang, put two small holes in rim at top, loop the ends of a length of yarn through the holes and tie.



Turkey Cup:

For each child, provide one paper cup of an autumn color. Place child’s hand on construction paper (autumn color) and trace around it. Cut out paper handprint. Fasten or glue paper handprint to side of cup with fingers extending up above rim, so that fingers look like feathers. Use pattern provided to cut out turkey neck and head out of same paper. Decorate head with eyes and a beak. Fasten turkey head to opposite side of cup from feathers.

Fill cup with dry cereal or snack mix. (Watch for food allergies! NO NUTS!)

